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Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 /093 W
---------- 092216
P R 231715Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3906
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR AG EG SS
SUBJECT: SAHARAN RAID LEAVES QUIETLY

1. ARAB LEAGUE SECY GEN MAHMUD RIAD LEFT ALGIERS FOR RABAT FEB 22 AFTER THREE-DAY VISIT WHICH GIVEN LITTLE PUBLICITY HERE. PRESS DID ANNOUNCE THAT RIAD HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE, AND OFFICIAL ALGERIAN PRESS AGENCY (APS) HAS JUST PUT OUT SUPPORT THAT HE HAD MEETING WITH SAHARA PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

PRESIDENT OULD ZIOUTEND WITH HABIBALLAH OF POLISARIO. APS TERMS LATTER MEETING AS FALLING WITHIN JUST PERVIEW OF RIAD'S VISIT SINCE POLISARIO IS TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF SAHRAOUI PEOPLE.

2. RIAD'S OTHER ACTIVITIES HERE INCLUDED TV INTERVIEW FEB 21 IN WHICH HE SPOKE IN GENERAL, PHILOSOPHICAL TERMS OF NEED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD AND SESSION WITH FOREIGN AND EDUCATION MINISTERS OF COMORO ISLANDS WHO HAVE BEEN VISITING ALGIERS.

3. ACCORDING TO EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT HERE, A MEMBER OF RIAD'S
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DELEGATION WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR VISIT ACCOMPLISHING

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ANYTHING.

4. COMMENT: RIAD IS FIRST SAHARA "MEDIATOR" TO MEET WITH
POLISARIO. THIS GESTURE MAY ENHANCE HIS CREDIBILITY IN ALGERIAN
EYES SOMEWHAT, BUT PERFUNCTORY MEDIA TREATMENT ACCORDED HIS VISIT,
PLUS DELEGATION MEMBER'S COMMENT, SUGGEST THAT PROGRESS IN
SUBSTANTIVE, DIPLOMATIC TERMS WAS PROBABLY LIMITED.
PARKER

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